Purchase Price Limits Increased for First-Time Homebuyer Program

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Industrial Commission has increased the purchase price limits on previously occupied homes in eight counties for the popular First-Time Homebuyer Program.

Commission members said Thursday that the action is in response to information collected by the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) showing the average home purchase price in North Dakota is increasing.

"With these new limits a first time homebuyer will be able to choose from a wider range of existing homes," Gov. John Hoeven said. "By increasing the purchase price limits current homeowners will see the pool of potential buyers expanded to include more first-time homebuyers."

"Although the federal government establishes purchase price limits for the 'First-Time Homebuyer Program,' it has been several years since federal limits have been published," said Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson. "We are permitted to use more accurate and comprehensive local information for establishing the limits, and we have done so."

"Although the purchase price limits are being increased in eight counties, the amount a person can afford to pay for a home is still determined by their income and debt structure," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

"These new limits are based on sales during calendar year 2000 for each of the affected counties," said. Pat S. Fricke, NDHFA executive director. "The home sales data is analyzed early in the year so that the higher limits are available going into spring when home purchase activity reaches its peak."

Homebuyers who have not owned a home during the past three years may be eligible for the Home Mortgage Finance Program. Borrower income and home purchase price limits vary by family size and county. (See attached list for details.)

For more information about the "First-Time Homebuyer Program" or other NDHFA programs contact a participating lender, real estate agent, home builder or the Housing Finance Agency directly at (701) 328-8080, 1-800-292-8621, 1-800-366-6888 (TTY) or through the Internet at www.ndhfa.org.

The Housing Finance Agency is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

ANNUAL INCOME LIMITS (effective March 27, 2000)

	Family	Family
<u>County</u>	less than 3	3 or more
Burleigh, Morton	\$ 49,200	\$ 56,580
Cass, Mercer	50,900	58,535
Grand Forks	45,400	52,210
Pembina, Sargent	45,000	51,750
Ransom, Richland	46,500	53,475
All other Counties	43,000	49,450

Includes projected income from all sources for the 12 months following the date of application.

MAXIMUM ACQUISITION COST LIMITS (effective March 1, 2001)

	New Construction		Ex		
<u>County</u>	<u> 1 Unit</u>	<u>1 Unit</u>	2 Units	3 Units	4 Units
Burleigh & Morton	\$ 130,000	\$ 93,158	\$ 104,895	\$ 126,973	\$ 147,654
Cass	130,000	91,605	103,147	124,857	145,193
Grand Forks	130,000	90,006	101,347	122,679	142,660
Richland	130,000	66,748	75,158	90,977	105,795
Stark	130,000	63,325	71,304	86,312	100,370
Ward	130,000	79,587	89,615	108,477	126,145
Stutsman	130,000	67,643	76,166	92,198	107,214
All other Counties	130,000	59,046	66,486	80,480	93,588

PARTICIPATING LENDERS (as of March 1, 2001)

Lenders with multiple locations:

Academy Mortgage, USA

Alerus Financial

American Federal Bank

BNC National Bank

Bremer Bank

Capital Credit Union

Community First National Bank

Dakota Community Bank

Dakota West Credit Union

F-M Mortgage Corporation

First Community Credit Union

First International Bank & Trust

First National Bank of Bowbells

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First Southwest Bank

First State Bank of Buxton

First State Bank of Golva

First State Bank of LaMoure

First State Bank of Munich

Gate City Federal Savings Bank

Great Plains National Bank HomeTown Mortgage

Kirkwood Bank & Trust Co.

Ramsey Bank of Cando

Security First Bank of ND

Town & Country Credit Union

Union Bank

United Community Bank of ND Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Inc.

Western Cooperative Credit Union

Western State Bank

Beulah - First Security Bank West

Bismarck -

Bank Center First

Real Estate Mortgage Investment

St. Alexius Medical Center Credit Union

Bottineau - First National Bank & Trust Company

Cando - Country Bank USA

Carrington – Security State Bank

Casselton – First State Bank of Casselton

Cavalier - Citizens State Bank

Crosby - Farmers State Bank of Crosby

Devils Lake -

Lake Region Credit Union

Ramsey National Bank & Trust

Dickinson -

American State Bank & Trust

Community First National Bank

Fairmount – People's State Bank

Fargo -

Community First National

Executive Mortgage Corporation

First Mortgage Service, Inc.

ND Air National Guard Credit Union

Northland Educators Federal Credit Union

Postal Family Federal Credit Union

State Bank of Fargo

United Savings Credit Union

US Bank NA

Valley Mortgage

Glen Ullin - Bank of Glen Ullin

Grand Forks – Community National Bank

Hamilton – Bank of Hamilton

Harvey - First State Bank of Harvey

Hatton – Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hatton

Hazen – Union State Bank

Hettinger -

Dacotah Bank

West River State Bank

Kenmare - State Bank & Trust of Kenmare

Lakota - State Bank of Lakota

Mandan – Security First Bank of ND

Minot – First Western Bank & Trust

Minto – Bank of Minto

New Town – Lakeside State Bank

Park River – First United Bank

Powers Lake – Liberty State Bank

Rolla – Dacotah Bank

Stanley – Scandia American Bank

Strasburg – Strasburg State Bank

Tioga - Bank of Tioga

Tolna – Farmers and Merchants State Bank

Underwood – First Security Bank

Valley City -

Farmers and Merchants Bank of Valley City

First National Bank of Valley City

Velva – People's State Bank
Walhalla – Walhalla State Bank
Washburn – Farmers Security Bank
Watford City – McKenzie County National
Bank
Wilton – First State Bank of Wilton
Wishek – Security State Bank